

a 2 7. (Amended) The stent-graft of claim 5 wherein said ribbon covers a portion of [a number of] said undulations.

16. (Amended) The stent-graft of claim 5 wherein said graft member comprises [porous expanded] a fluoropolymer [polytetrafluoroethylene].

a 3 17. (Amended) The stent-graft of claim 16 wherein said ribbon comprises [porous expanded polytetrafluoroethylene] a fluoropolymer.

18. (Amended) The stent-graft of claim 1 wherein said graft member comprises radiopaque [fibers] markers.

19. (Amended) The stent-graft of claim 1 wherein said stent member comprises [nitinol] a titanium-nickel alloy.

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a 4 22. (Amended) A stent-graft comprising:
a stent member having an inner surface and an outer surface;
a generally tubular graft member having an inner and an outer surface, one of said stent and graft members surrounding at least a portion of the other; and
a helically configured ribbon interconnecting less than entirely one of said inner and outer surfaces of said graft member to said stent member.

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23. (Amended) The stent-graft of claim 22 wherein said helically configured ribbon [is arranged to] includes multiple helical turns, wherein at least one of said turns is [being] spaced from a turn adjacent thereto.

26. (Amended) A stent-graft comprising:
a stent member having an inner surface and an outer surface, said stent member including a first member and a second member, said first member being arranged in a helical configuration with multiple helical turns, said second member coupling adjacent helical turns;
a generally tubular graft member having an inner surface and an outer surface, one of said stent and graft members surrounding at least a portion of the other, and
a helically arranged coupling member coupling less than entirely one of said inner and outer surfaces of said graft member to said stent member.

27. (Amended) The stent-graft of claim 26 wherein said first member includes multiple undulations, each having an apex, said coupling member is [helically arranged and] spaced from said apexes to form therewith respective openings, said apexes being configured to permit unrestrained movement of said second member within said openings.

30. (Amended) A method of deploying a stent-graft comprising the steps of:

a) providing a stent-graft including:

i) a stent member having an inner surface and an outer surface;

ii) a generally tubular graft member; and

iii) a ribbon adhered in contact with at least one of the inner and outer surfaces of said stent member and forming multiple strips spaced from one another; said ribbon securing the stent member and graft member to one another

b) conforming said stent-graft into a deployable configuration;

c) placing said deployable configured stent-graft from step b) [a first end of a variable length stent-graft having an inner graft member, an outer, helically wound stent coupled to said graft member by a helically wound ribbon with spaced apart turns,] at a first site [in a mammal; moving the second end of the stent-graft toward a second site in a mammal; lengthening the stent-graft if the second end does not reach the second site]; and

d) expanding said deployed stent-graft of step c) at said site into an enlarged, deployed configuration [shortening of the stent-graft if the second end extends beyond the second site].

31. (Amended) A process for making a stent graft comprising:

(a) placing a graft member around a mandrel;

(b) positioning an undulating stent member having an inner surface and an outer surface [undulations] around said graft member; and

(c) securing [covering a portion of] said stent member [and] to said graft member

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Cont with a [coupling member having a flat surface] ribbon having multiple spaced apart strips, which ribbon is adhered to at least one of the inner and outer surfaces of said stent member, to form a stent-graft assembly.

A8 33. (Amended) The process according to claim 31, wherein said [covering] securing step comprises helically wrapping the ribbon [coupling member] around the stent member whereby adjacent turns of the helically wrapper ribbon [coupling member] are spaced from one another and form said spaced apart strips.

Cancel claim 34.

A9 35. (Amended) The process according to claim 32 wherein the [coupling member] ribbon is bonded to an outer surface of the graft member.

A10 37. (Amended) The process according to claim 35 further comprising the step of:
(e) heating the [tensioned] assembly of step (d) to [bond] adhere the [coupling member] ribbon to the graft member.

Please add the following new claims:

Sub B5
A11 --41. A stent-graft comprising a generally tubular stent member having multiple undulations, each having an amplitude;

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Substant
a generally tubular graft member disposed within said stent member; and
a tape helically arranged to contact at least an inner or an outer circumference of said stent member and forming multiple windings spaced from one another, each of said multiple windings covering only a portion of the amplitude of the undulations.

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(Amended) The stent-graft of claim *28* wherein said graft member comprises a fluoropolymer.--

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 33, 35 - 40 and newly added claims 41 - 42 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 7, 16 - 19, 22, 23, 26, 27, 30 - 33, 35 and 37 have been amended in formal regards only. Claim 34 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer for the subject matter recited therein. Claims 30 - 40 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) as being directed to a non-elected invention. No new matter has been introduced. Entry and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

THE RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

The Office Action sets forth a restriction between claims 1 - 29 (Group I); claim 30 (Group II; and Claims 31 - 40 (Group III). Applicants elected the claims of Group I with oral

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